SPACE CENTER
Roundup
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Staying Strong!

NASA JSC ISS005e21513

The International Space Station's Expedition 6 crewmembers give a thumbs-up in the ISS Zarya module. Pictured are Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, Commander Ken Bowersox and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit. **For more on Expedition 6, see page 3.**

GUEST COLUMN

Jackie Reese, Director of JSC's Employee Assistance Program

Have you ever built something hoping never to use it?

That is how I felt about a team that I formed here at Johnson Space Center – the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team. I formed this group just over a year ago, and while I felt that such a team would be beneficial to have waiting in the wings, I hoped that JSC employees would never need the team's volunteers to come forward and do their job.

But now, these volunteers have indeed been needed. They are civil servants and contractors, from many directorates, and they are giving of their time to help all of us work through our reactions to the *Columbia* tragedy.

The Critical Incident Team (CIT), part of the Employee Assistance Program, helps JSC employees through debriefings, which are small-group or individual discussions. The team members have all been trained by Roger Solomon, Ph.D., an international expert on crisis management.

The first priority for the CIT was to hold debriefings for employees in the directorates most closely related to the accident; however, we are available for all JSC employees and their dependents.

Our focus is on peer support – since we ourselves are all part of the JSC family, we are all going through the same emotions. We can identify with the hurt and say, "Yes, that's how the news hit me, too." During times like this, folks don't need psychobabble, they need chicken soup. We on the CIT are walking this path with you.

Some common emotions during a crisis such as this are:

- numbness/shock
- disbelief
- guilt
- bargaining/"If only I'd…"
- sadness
- anger

However, not everyone feels all of these, or even any of them. Every single person will react to a tragedy in a unique way.

One common question our team has heard during debriefings is: "Why is this hitting me so hard when I didn't know the crew?" While not everyone at JSC knew the STS-107 crew on a personal level, everyone here is somehow connected with each mission. Astronauts are a symbol of the good in NASA and in the United States, and it is natural to be emotionally distraught at their loss. It is also natural to identify with the pain that the crew's loved ones are feeling.

On the other side of the coin is another common question: "Why don't I feel anything yet in the aftermath of this catastrophe?" The answer to that is that everyone has a different way of feeling during a tragic event. One employee may experience numbness and not the anger or sadness that his or her officemate has felt. Neither reaction is better than the other.

Employees need to realize that there is no "right" way to be feeling now: the stages folks experience are not fixed or uniform. Rather, people's emotions often jump around from one feeling to another.

Everyone's experience is unique; however, there are some universal coping skills that can benefit almost anyone:

- Talk about your experience with others; don't isolate yourself. Your friends and colleagues can sympathize with how you are feeling.
- Take care of yourself: continue to eat right and exercise. This will help with stress and enable better sleep.
- Avoid making major life decisions during very emotional times.
- Stick with your routine – familiar things provide comfort.
- Get involved in something meaningful to you.

Also, don't tell yourself that you need to "get over it." Loss like this isn't something you get over; it's something you learn how to live with.

If you are having trouble eating, sleeping and doing everyday things; if you are overly preoccupied with death and dying; or if you find yourself withdrawing from family and friends, the EAP is a resource for helping you to work through this time. All visits are completely confidential.

If you need our services, please schedule an appointment by calling x36130. Or if you are concerned about a coworker exhibiting these symptoms, you can offer to accompany him or her to an appointment or call the EAP for some helpful ideas.

Overall, the JSC workforce is doing remarkably well working through this. That's because we have remarkable people here. We are leaning on each other and looking for meaningful things to do. JSC employees are bright, dedicated and passionate, and I believe we are pouring those qualities into our grieving process, too. ❖

Center Director Message

FROM THE DESK OF LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL JR.

FOCUS!…FOCUS!

I'm a Tae Bo enthusiast. I exercise with Billy Blanks and the Tae Bo gang two or three times a week before I come to work. If you haven't tried it, I recommend it, particularly if you have bum knees like me. You can get your heart rate up for 30-40 minutes in the confines of your family room without doing further damage to aging appendages.

As with anything else I do repetitively, my mind tends to wander as I go through the exercise regime. As if on cue, Billy will shout out "FOCUS, FOCUS!" I, in turn, suck my gut back in and pay attention to the proper execution of the routine.

I've found myself tending to be in a state of distraction for the past several weeks. I'll arrive at work, not remembering how I got there. My mind wants to wander in meetings, and it's difficult to pay attention to even normal conversations. It's almost like being in a state of mental dizziness, if there is such a thing. I sense that I'm not the only one around here with that problem.

There is good reason for experiencing this phenomenon. Our JSC world has been turned upside-down. We are being caught up in personal grief, mishap investigations, public conjecture and criticism, etc. Our normal, although very hectic, routine has been cast aside and each day brings different circumstances.

Here's the rub: we can't allow ourselves to surrender to this condition! We are committed to professional excellence and professionals don't surrender to distraction. There's also too much at stake. Astronauts preparing for future missions are depending on us keep them out of harm's way. The valiant crew of STS-107 would be terribly disappointed if we used their tragedy as an excuse for dropping the ball.

We must press on! We must stay on top of our game. As Billy Blanks would say, "FOCUS! FOCUS!"

Beak sends….

Mandatory IT Security Training

All JSC employees, both civil servants and contractors, are required to complete the annual IT Security Training (ITS) by June 30, 2003. General users must take the Basic ITS for 2003 and managers must take ITS for Managers 2003. The modules are available on the NASA Site for Online Learning and Resources (SOLAR): https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov/solar/delivery/public/html/newindex.htm

To complete the training, employees must enter their SOLAR user name and password. To request a new password, please click the "My Account" tab on the SOLAR homepage, or call the SOLAR helpdesk at 1-866-419-6297. New passwords are issued within 30 minutes.

Point of Contact: Chris Ortiz, JSC IT Security Manager- x31904.

Expedition 6 crew carries on legacy of space exploration

By Kendra Ceule

More than three months into their stay aboard the International Space Station, the Expedition 6 crewmembers still have no trouble keeping busy. The crewmembers are Astronaut Ken Bowersox, Commander; Cosmonaut Nikolai Budarin, Flight Engineer; and Astronaut Don Pettit, NASA ISS Science Officer. They have been performing scientific research, maintaining the station and unpacking supplies from a Russian Progress resupply ship. That's not to say that the crewmembers haven't been affected by the loss of *Columbia* and her crew on Feb. 1.

"We've had time to grieve over our friends," Bowersox said during a press conference Feb. 11. "When you're up here this long, you can't just bottle up your emotions and focus all the time. It's important for us to acknowledge that the people on STS-107 were our friends and we had a connection with them and that we feel their loss. Each of us had a chance to shed some tears.

"But now it's time to move forward and we're doing that slowly. This press conference today is a huge step that's helping us move along towards our normal objectives and fulfilling our mission here."

Fulfilling that mission has involved participating in medical tests, fine-tuning the Microgravity Science Glovebox and inspecting equipment in the station's Quest Airlock. Also, all three crewmembers have participated in several television interviews, during which many of the questions centered on the *Columbia* accident and how it affects the team. The temporary cessation of space shuttle flights means that the crew could be in for a much longer-than-expected stay in orbit.

Bowersox, Budarin and Pettit have all said they are willing to stay as long as needed. Expedition 6 is scheduled to come home in early May in the Soyuz TMA-1 craft currently docked at the station. The crew will be replaced by an American astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut who will be launched in late April or early May in a Soyuz TMA-2 craft. The current crew has enough food, fuel, clothing and other materials to last through at least the end of June, if required – thanks to the Russian Progress resupply ship, which arrived at the station in early February.

No matter how long they remain on board, the Expedition 6 crew will keep researching, working and discovering – not just fulfilling their own mission, but upholding the dream of space exploration. ❖

NASA JSC ISS006e008625

"I consider myself an explorer. And you can explore in many different ways, whether it's under the stage of a microscope or running off in a laboratory and making other measurements. I've been an explorer for as long as I can remember...exploring space is just one aspect of that."

–Astronaut Don Pettit, Expedition 6 NASA ISS Science Officer, pictured working in the Zvezda Service Module on the ISS

"I tell people that 95 percent of what's important about space station happens on the ground: when American engineers and Russian engineers get together; when a Canadian meets a Russian and they talk about what life is like in their countries; when we send somebody from Houston over to Japan and he talks to somebody at dinner. The relationships that we're building are building a stronger world, and that's just as important as building our space station."

–Astronaut Ken Bowersox, Expedition 6 Commander, pictured working with an experiment in a portable glovebox facility in the Destiny laboratory

NASA JSC ISS006e07276

NASA JSC ISS006e21375

"The previous experience of our joint [international] flights has demonstrated that we are capable of working together, and that we will be working together, and the International Space Station is a very good example of that. I think we are successful in building and operating the station, and I think we will continue to be successful in that."

–Cosmonaut Nikolai Budarin, Expedition 6 Flight Engineer, pictured working with tethers and clamps from the tool panel storage in the Zvezda Service Module

Gehman Board investigates *Columbia* accident

By Kendra Ceule

NASA JSC 2003e07054 Photo by James Blair

Adm. Harold Gehman, chairman of the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board, is interviewed by reporters.

While JSC employees have heard about the Gehman Board and its investigation into the *Columbia* accident, questions may still linger over what the Board is, how it was formed and how it operates. A brief overview is below to answer these questions.

As part of NASA's contingency planning, the Agency keeps a list of accident investigation experts who can be called on in the event of an emergency. On Feb. 1, that group was contacted to supervise the investigation into the loss of Space Shuttle *Columbia* and her crew. Led by Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board (more commonly the "Gehman Board") acts as a steering committee for the independent investigation.

The Board consists of safety experts from the U.S. Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Transportation and other organizations. The Board's full charter, as well as biographies of its members, is available at:

http://www.nasa.gov/columbia/board_documents.pdf

The Gehman Board's duties, as outlined in its charter, include:

- Determine the facts, as well as the actual or probable causes, of the shuttle mishap in terms of dominant and contributing root causes and significant observations, and recommend preventive and other appropriate actions to preclude recurrence of a similar mishap. The investigation will not be conducted or used to determine questions of culpability, legal liability or disciplinary action.
- Use the established NASA support structure of working groups, NASA Field Center support and supporting facilities to conduct the investigations as the Board deems appropriate.
- Obtain and analyze whatever facts, evidence and opinions it considers relevant by relying upon reports of studies, findings, recommendations and other actions by NASA officials and contractors or by conducting inquiries, hearings, tests and other actions it deems appropriate.
- Provide a final written report for public release at such time and in such manner as the Board deems appropriate.

The Gehman Board is assisted in its efforts by the NASA Task Force, which coordinates the use of NASA resources by the Board during the investigation. The Task Force is the formal interface between NASA and contractor personnel and the Gehman Board.

The Board's findings will be reported to Administrator Sean O'Keefe and also to the public at a date to be determined by the Board. Originally, the group's charter gave it 60 days to report its findings, but the charter has been amended to allow the Board as much time as necessary. The Board has made three such amendments to its own charter to further its independence from NASA.

Gehman announced recently that the panel is opening an office in Washington, D.C., which can be reached at 703-416-3461 and that Thomas L. Carter has been appointed the Board's assistant for government relations. Carter will be the Board's independent representation in Washington and will maintain contact with both Congress and Executive Branch organizations. For more information regarding the Board's members, see "Who's Who in the Gehman Board."

NASA JSC 2003e09146 Photo by James Blair

Astronaut John Young, Associate Director-Technical, and Ron Dittemore, Manager of the Space Shuttle Program, look on during a Gehman Board briefing.

MEMBERS OF THE GEHMAN BOARD

Who's Who on the Gehman Board

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Adm. Harold "Hal" Gehman Jr.

Gehman completed more than 35 years of active duty in October 2000. His last assignment was as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, and as the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, one of the five U.S. Unified Commands. Immediately after retiring, Gehman served as Co-chairman of the Department of Defense review of the terrorist attack on the *USS Cole*.

BOARD MEMBERS

Maj. Gen. John L. Barry

Barry is Director, Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He worked as the NASA Administrator's executive assistant and White House liaison during the *Challenger* accident. His assignment prior to his current position was the Strategic Planner for the U.S. Air Force.

Brig. Gen. Duane W. Deal

Deal is Commander, 21st Space Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Deal has extensive flight experience, crew commander experience in missile warning and space control, and extensive aircraft maintenance and logistics experience. He has served on or presided over 10 mishap investigations for space launch and aircraft incidents.

James Hallock

Hallock has earned three degrees in physics, including a Ph.D., from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He calculated lunar photometric functions and the potential effects of solar flare radiation on the optical systems of Apollo spacecraft.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hess

Hess is the Air Force Chief of Safety, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Commander, Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. He has extensive staff experience at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Joint Staff and U.S. Pacific Command. He has commanded three Air Force wings and is a command pilot with more than 4,200 hours in various aircraft.

Scott Hubbard

Hubbard is Director of NASA Ames Research Center, and is responsible for the organization and oversight of Ames' research efforts. He has been a contributor to, and the developer of, space research missions since 1974, and brought his expertise to the investigation of the loss of two NASA Mars spacecraft in 2000.

Rear Adm. Stephen A. Turcotte

Turcotte is the Commander, Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, Va. He graduated from Marquette University NROTC in 1975, received his commission upon graduation and was ordered to flight training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1977. Turcotte has been trained in the S-3A "Viking" and was deployed to the Western Pacific/Indian Ocean aboard *USS Kitty Hawk* during the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

Steven Wallace

Wallace is the Director of the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Accident Investigation, and has overall responsibility for all FAA accident investigation activity. He oversees the FAA response to all National Transportation Safety Board recommendations, as well as internal FAA safety recommendations. A lawyer by training, Wallace is also a license commercial pilot with multiengine and instrument ratings.

Roger E. Tetrault

Tetrault retired from his post as Chairman of McDermott International in 2000 after 24 years with the company. At McDermott's major subsidiary, Babcock and Wilcox, Tetrault had been the Vice President and Group Executive of the Government Group, where he was responsible for the diversified government business segment that included nuclear reactors, pressure vessels and advanced Solid Rocket Motor Bodies for the space shuttle.

Dr. Sheila Widnall

Dr. Widnall is Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has served as Associate Provost of MIT, and as Secretary of the Air Force. She has done extensive research in fluid dynamics and is a world-renowned expert in aircraft turbulence and spiraling airflows.

NASA SUPPORT

Both NASA Support members of the Gehman Board are non-voting members.

Theron M. Bradley Jr.

Bradley, NASA's Chief Engineer, is responsible for the overall review and technical readiness of all NASA programs. Bradley assures development efforts and mission operations are planned and conducted on a sound engineering basis, and provides an integrated focus for Agency-wide engineering policies, standards and practices.

Bryan D. O'Connor

O'Connor is the Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance and has functional responsibility for the safety, reliability, maintainability and quality assurance of all NASA programs. After the *Challenger* was lost, O'Connor was given a number of safety and management assignments over the next three years. O'Connor is a member of the Astronaut Corps and has 386 hours in space.

By Cheerie R. Patneaude

White Sands remembers the crew of STS-107

Employees of the NASA White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, N.M., attended a televised memorial service for the seven astronauts who died during Space Shuttle *Columbia*'s reentry into the earth's atmosphere. The employees watched while NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and President George W. Bush comforted the grieving family members during the Feb. 4 memorial service at Johnson Space Center. WSTF is a component of JSC and conducts tests on rocket propulsion systems and materials for the space program.

"We are a great team; we are part of the NASA family," said Joseph Fries, NASA Manager of WSTF and of White Sands Space Harbor (WSSH), to the employees. "We must first take time to grieve for our recent loss, then we must continue to do the work that we know how to do so well with a renewed vigor and without the fear of failure."

For more than 20 years, the test facility and its outlying WSSH have conducted astronaut training in the critical phase of final approach and landing of the shuttle orbiter. The WSSH site, located in the alkali flats portion of the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range near Holloman Air Force Base, has two 7-mile laser-leveled runways made of compacted gypsum, which simulate the landing strips at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Edwards Air Force Base in California. The approach and landing training flights are conducted using the NASA Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA), which are Grumman Gulfstream corporate jets specially modified to mimic the flight dynamics of the much larger shuttle orbiter.

"During the training flights, the pilots and commanders aboard the STA are in constant radio contact with the traffic advisors at WSSH," said Robert Mitchell, NASA/WSSH. "Our traffic advisors know that the astronauts would always politely thank them, even for the smallest effort. Personally knowing a couple of the astronauts from the Space Shuttle *Columbia* makes this tragedy much more difficult for us."

STS-107 Pilot Willie McCool and Mission Specialist Laurel Clark visited WSTF just three years ago for the WSSH Friends & Family Day and addressed the employees. "Willie was especially patient and helpful in setting up the day's agenda," Mitchell said. After the astronauts described their mission training and experiences, they answered a multitude of questions from the audience. McCool and Clark also attended the Appreciation Day for the El Paso Forward Operations and WSSH employees, held at the NASA Hanger in El Paso, Texas in 2002.

"Their deaths are a terrible thing," said Skip Rasmussen, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI), a traffic advisor at the WSSH tower. Rasmussen sent a condolence message on behalf of the WSSH crew: "It is a tragic loss when we lose any of our astronauts," the message reads. "However, when we have personally met these people, had lunch with them, discussed the profession with them and laughed with them, the tragedy goes much deeper. Our hopes and prayers go out to their families that they may make it through this time of grief."

"I feel a sadness for the astronauts' families and friends," said HTSI Program Manager Mark Leifeste. "Many of the astronauts trained at WSSH. I feel that we should cherish our relationships more today and not wait until something happens to make our feelings known. I believe that everyone here will do his or her part to make every difference they can, at a personal level, by continuing to do the work we do so well."

The seven brave astronauts who paid the ultimate price in the service of science and the betterment of all mankind are in the thoughts and prayers of all the NASA White Sands employees as they and the rest of the nation move forward from this tragedy. ❖

NASA JSC 011-0044

Above: At the White Sands Space Harbor Friends and Family Day three years ago, STS-107 Pilot Willie McCool signed an autograph for a young space enthusiast. McCool attended the event with Mission Specialist Laurel Clark.

Below: After having capped off STS-3 with a landing at White Sands – the first and only landing there – *Columbia* flew back to Kennedy Space Center aboard the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft.

NASA JSC 0482-0659

PROFILES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY

Bridget Broussard-Guidry

Time at JSC: Almost 20 years
Organization: Financial Management Division
Position title: Financial Management Specialist
Education: Jesse H. Jones High School
Place of birth: Houston, Texas
What does Black History Month mean to you?
A continuous education of the struggles, successes, inventions and contributions of our ancestors' legacy to be shared with our youth so they, too, can encourage and inspire. "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." –Phil.4:13
Favorite words of wisdom?
Today is the tomorrow you were worried about yesterday. Was it worth it?

Dwight S. Auzenne

Time at JSC: Eight years
Organization: Office of the Chief Engineer, Systems Management Office
Position title: Project Management Analyst
Education: Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Louisiana State University; Master's in Engineering Management, Cleveland State University
Place of birth: Opelousas, La.
What does Black History Month mean to you?
Black History Month observance, to me, means taking time out to understand the contributions and sacrifices of Americans, which have enabled the way of life we enjoy today.
Favorite words of wisdom?
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tressa A. Pulliam

Time at JSC: 15 years
Organization: Astronaut Office
Position title: Secretary
Education: Sophomore at San Jacinto College
Place of birth: Hayti, Mo.
What does Black History Month mean to you?
Honoring the people that have gone before us by passing on the legacy that has been left by so many, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, and making sure that children are educated and given a positive view of black history.
Favorite words of wisdom?
Don't allow anyone to make you lose focus of your goals.

Pamela Denkins

Time at JSC: 16 years
Organization: Space and Life Sciences/Bioastronautics
Position title: Radiation Research Specialist
Education: Bachelor's of Science in Physics; Master's in Mathematics; Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology
Place of birth: Brenham, Texas
What does Black History Month mean to you?
It's great that we have this month set aside for national observance, but black history observance is an everyday event for me. As a child, my parents made my siblings and me aware of the richness of our culture and history and its impact on the world – humanity, science, engineering, education and the arts. This influence is so widespread that black history must and should be recognized at all times.
Favorite words of wisdom?
I don't limit myself...there are so many for all of life's situations. I use whatever is appropriate for the time.

Ralph Anderson

Time at JSC: 23 years
Organization: Office of the Chief Engineer
Position title: Manager, Project Improvements Office
Education: Bachelor's of Science in Electronics, Alcorn State University; MBA, Universtiy of Houston - Clear Lake
Place of birth: Vicksburg, Miss.
What does Black History Month mean to you?
It's a time to reflect that we stand today on the shoulders of many who fought and died for our race and for this country; to understand that it is our never-ending duty to continue the quest for perfection and by our performance, to provide a path for those who otherwise would have no avenue for professional achievement.
Favorite words of wisdom:
"The world makes way for the man who knows where he is going." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

PROFILES

Irene E. Kaye

Time at JSC: 19 years
Organization: Structural Engineering Division
Position title: Division Chief
Education: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, University of Houston
Place of birth: Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? I don't see any major challenge differences between being a female leader or a male leader. We all have to establish technical credibility, integrate our personal integrity and establish our own style that works in our environment.
Words of Encouragement: Do the best you can do for every task you are given, as no task is too small or unimportant. Every large endeavor is made up of multiple smaller tasks that in the end will lead you to your goal.

Yolanda Marshall

Time at JSC: Joined NASA in October 2002; began career as a reliability engineer with the Boeing Company in 1980
Organization: Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate
Education: Texas A&M University
Place of birth: Alamogordo, N.M.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? My greatest challenge is encouraging my team to see through other's eyes. It is important to understand and respect another's perception and view. Once you understand that perception, it is even more important to be willing to deal with it and improve communication and expectations.
Words of Encouragement: As a leader or manager, you are not alone. When you have a clear vision and you help others to see your vision, they are with you every step of the way. When you have stress, go see your people. I can draw on the people around me and feel their commitment and dedication, and it is very energizing.

Lesa Roe

Time at JSC: 3.5 years
Organization: International Space Station Program Office
Position title: International Space Station Payloads Office Manager
Education: Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, University of Central Florida
Place of birth: Gainesville, Fla.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? My greatest challenge as a leader, really nothing to do with being female, is motivating people to change, to move to something better – a new way of doing things.
Words of Encouragement: The best advice I have is to get an education and work in experience along the way. Experience in the corporate world will go a long way when you graduate and are looking for full-time employment.

Lucy Yates

Time at JSC: 16 years
Organization: Space Station Procurement
Position title: Manager, Space Station Procurement Office
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Political, Science Texas Tech University; Master's of Public Administration, University of Texas at San Antonio
Place of birth: Alamagordo, N.M.
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? Business functions at JSC are critically important support functions to very technical programs and initiatives. A person in a business role, especially a female, has to be extremely comfortable with the nature of this job and must be able to articulate business requirements critical to every successful program or project.
Words of Encouragement: In your career, as in life, you must persevere. I have never been the smartest person in any room but I'm stubborn to learn and understand and push myself to be smarter. Being stubborn, in this sense, allows you to adapt and succeed in changing environments, to take on new challenges and to succeed in every assignment because you are prepared with relevant knowledge and skills.

Jeanne Newman

Time at JSC: 17 years
Organization: Media Services Corporation/IMPASS Contract
Position title: Manager, Public Affairs Services
Education: Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Broadcasting & Film from Trinity University
Place of birth: Edinburg, Texas
What is the greatest challenge as a top ranking female leader at JSC? One thing that makes my job interesting is the variety of challenges we experience every day. One thing is sure: a challenge can either overwhelm you or give you a chance to engage your creative problem-solving skills. Fortunately I am part of a team that is very good at tackling difficult situations by finding solutions that may not always be the easiest or the most obvious.
Words of Encouragement: Taped to my computer monitor is a bookmark that a co-worker gave me. The bookmark says, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." I believe that. When faced with a difficult situation, we get to choose how we react. It is that choice that can make the difference in the outcome.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
MARCH

Educator Astronaut Program in Full Swing

By Kim Hulsey

On Jan. 21, at the Hardy Middle School in Washington, D.C., NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe announced the official beginning of the Educator Astronaut Program in a renewed focus on education in support of NASA's Mission "to inspire the next generation of explorers...as only NASA can."

This program aims to motivate students and educators to pursue careers in science, math, engineering and technology. O'Keefe was joined by NASA Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Loston, Chief of the Astronaut Office Kent Rominger, and Astronauts Leland Melvin and Barbara Morgan. Morgan is NASA's first designated Educator Astronaut.

Eleven days after the announcement, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and its crew were lost. However, the Educator Astronaut Program, like the rest of NASA, will honor the crew by pressing forward. A quote from the Educator Astronaut Web site said, "We owe it to the *Columbia* crew not to give up; we must continue the journey they began."

The sentiment was echoed by Dr. Loston. "We will honor their legacy by continuing to pursue our mission goals," she said. "We believe that because of the space program's unique hold on the imagination of the young and the young at heart, we have a special opportunity to inspire and motivate our youth to explore the wonders of math and science."

The application deadline for the recruitment campaign – April 30 – is fast approaching. Employees, their children, spouses, extended family and community can support the program by nominating a teacher to become an Educator Astronaut.

What is an Educator Astronaut?

An Educator Astronaut is a fully qualified, permanent member of NASA's Astronaut Corps who has expertise in K-12 education. These Educator Astronauts will help lead the Agency in the development of new ways to connect space exploration with the classroom, and to inspire future explorers.

"We need an ambitious program," said Mike Kincaid, Chief of JSC's Education and Student Programs. Kincaid is also the Team Lead for the Educator Astronaut Program. "Our country needs more students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics to protect our security and our way of life. The NASA team needs people skilled in these areas to continue its legacy of exploration and achievement."

Educator Astronauts will be qualified, full-time, permanent members of the Astronaut Corps with multiple flight opportunities. Their duties will be equivalent to those performed by other Mission Specialist Astronauts – including spacewalks, International Space Station deployment, and experiment management. Once they have successfully completed their training, they will be eligible for multiple flights aboard the space shuttle and the ISS, helping coordinate space shuttle crew activity planning operations, and even assisting with science experiments. Every day, they will experience something unique that they can use to engage students and inspire them to consider technical careers.

When not in Astronaut Candidate or mission training, these Educator Astronauts will be on technical assignments within the Astronaut Office and working with NASA's education programs to convey their experiences to educators and students across the country. To help in this outreach effort, NASA will employ technologies and mediums such as telepresence, the Internet, video and other multi-media tools, as well as in-person engagements between the Educator Astronauts and America's educators and students.

What can I do?

"Everyone can be involved in this opportunity," said Melvin, Educator Astronaut Program Co-Manager. The Program offers many ways to participate – from the educators who fly into space to the educators who later learn from their experiences, and from the students, parents and community members who nominate teachers and follow them through training and missions.

One way to get involved is to nominate a favorite teacher by visiting edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html. Students, educators, friends and the general public can nominate any teacher for the program. All nominated teachers will be notified by NASA of their nomination, and it is then up to the teacher whether or not to apply. Or, interested teachers can apply without waiting for a nomination.

Employees can also be involved through Earth Crew, a Web-based initiative linking adult and student participants with space-based education activities and programs.

"The Earth Crew is an interactive program that lets teams here on the ground support our work in space with the NASA team," said Melvin. "In this way, the program embraces the entire community, not just NASA employees, to be involved with our work in space."

Earth Crews receive email updates, special Mission Assignments, and can help design future mission patches. The Earth Crew online resources also include astronaut profiles and training information, information on living and working in space, NASA career profiles and soon, a Virtual Astronaut feature.

For more information on the Educator Astronaut Program, visit www.edspace.nasa.gov or contact Bob Fitzmaurice, Ed.D.,

NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR

Anyone can nominate any teacher for the Educator Astronaut Program. It is then up to the nominated teacher whether or not to formally apply. However, a nomination is not a requirement for application.

To nominate a favorite teacher, go to edspace.nasa.gov/nominate/nominate.html and follow the instructions.

Educators who wish to apply may go to edspace.nasa.gov/apply/howapply.html and follow the instructions.

Applicants who do not have access to the Internet should contact their local libraries or call 1-877-EDASTRO (or 877-332-7876).

SPACE CENTER Roundup

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